



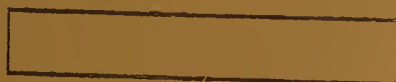
COUNTY BOROUGH OF MERTHYR TYDFIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1924



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ANNUAL REPORT

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OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ 1924 ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
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County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Alderman L. M. JONES.

Vice-Chairman : Alderman H. WILLIAMS.

Members of the Merthyr Tydfil Town Council.

————:O:————

MARDY HOSPITAL SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Alderman L. M. JONES.

Members : Councillors Mrs. Edmunds, Ll. Francis, I. Edwards,
J. Williams, J. E. Jones, D. Parry and T. M. Jarman.

————:O:————

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Alderman L. M. JONES.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor MRS. EDMUNDS.

Members of the Merthyr Tydfil Town Council.

Co-opted Members : Mrs. Bell.

SUB-COMMITTEE.

(Supply of Milk to Nursing and Expectant Mothers
and Infants).

Chairman : Alderman L. M. JONES.

Members : Councillors Mrs. Edmunds, H. M. Lloyd, F. A. Phillips,
J. Williams and Mrs. Bell (co-opted).

S T A F F.

Medical Officer of Health : A. DUNCAN, M.B., C.M., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers of Health : M. EPPYNT PHILLIPS, M.
H. BINKS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dentist, Maternity and Child Welfare Department :
J. A. WYLIE, L.D.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :
M. THOMAS, A.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspectors :
H. L. JENKINS, A.R.San.I. ; L. MILLS, A.R.San.I., and B.
WILLIAMS, A.R.San.I.

Health Visitors (and School Nurses) :
A. DAVIES, E. M. LEWIS, M. PARRY, M. ROGERS, E. LEWIS,
H. HEWITT, E. WILLIAMS. E. FRANCIS

Clerks :
W. LLOYD, T. LUMLEY, M. LEWIS (part-time).



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1924.



TOWN HALL,

MERTHYR TYDFIL.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNTY
BOROUGH OF MERTHYR TYDFIL.

SIR, GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the ANNUAL REPORT on the Sanitary conditions and vital statistics of the Borough for the year 1924.

The report for the year 1924 comes under the heading of an ordinary report as defined in Circular 269 (Wales) of the Ministry of Health in contradistinction to survey reports which are required at intervals of not more than five years. Information has been received from the Ministry that the more elaborate survey report will be required for 1925.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The area of the Borough is 17,761 acres, with a population according to the corrected census returns of 1921 of 80,116; 41,115 males and 39,001 females. The estimated population for mid-year 1924 is given by the Registrar General as 83,440, and it is on this figure that the various statistics are calculated. According to the census returns there are 15,809 structurally separate dwellings occupied, and 17,057 private families, with a population of 78,863. There are 78,605 rooms occupied with a ratio of one room per person.

The assessable value (General District Rate) is £256,960, and the produce of a penny rate is £1,070 13s. 4d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

Nett Number Registered	...	...	...	1786
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	21.4
Birth-rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	18.8
Birth-rate for 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	...	...	...	19.4

The following table from the Registrar General shows the distribution of the births :—

	Total Births.	Inward Transfers.	Outward Transfers.
Males ...	... 894	... 10	... 21
Females	... 910	... 8	... 15

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

Males ...	... 42	... —	... 8
Females	... 29	... 1	... 10

The nett number of illegitimate births was 54, equivalent to a rate of 30 per 1,000 births.

STILL BIRTHS. One hundred and twenty-one were notified by midwives under the rules of the Central Midwives' Board.

DEATHS.

Nett number registered	...	...	...	1028
Death-rate per 1,000	...	...	...	12.3
Death-rate per 1,000 (England and Wales)	...	...	...	12.2
Death-rate per 1,000, County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	...	...	...	12.3

The total number of deaths in the Borough amounted to 1,080, and of these 103 were of non-residents. Fifty-one " residents " died outside the Borough, so that the nett deaths numbered 1,028, equivalent to a death-rate of 12.3 per 1,000.

Of the 103 deaths of non-residents, 72 occurred in the Union Infirmary ; 5 in the General Hospital ; 14 in the Mardy Hospital ; and 5 in Pontsarn Sanatorium, while 7 occurred at private addresses.

Of the 213 deaths of residents in Public Institutions in the Borough 154 occurred in the Union Infirmary ; 35 in the General Hospital ; 22 in Mardy Hospital, and 2 in Pontsarn Sanatorium.

The following table shows the Ward distribution and rate per 1,000 of the deaths. The Ward populations have been calculated on the Census returns :—

Name of Ward.	No. of Deaths.	Ward Population.	Death-rate per 1,000.
Dowlais ...	199	12062	16.4
Penydarren ...	198	14440	13.7
Park ...	96	8698	11
Cyfarthfa ...	118	8278	14.2
Town ...	129	11988	10.7
Plymouth ...	111	10452	10.6
Merthyr Vale ...	85	8375	10.1
Treharris ...	92	9147	10

It will be observed that the Dowlais Ward has the highest death-rate this year with Cyfarthfa second and Penydarren third.

Last year Penydarren Ward topped the list, with Cyfarthfa second, only slightly above the rate for the Borough as a whole, while the Dowlais rate was below that of the Borough.

The death-rate for the Borough is the same as that of the 105 great towns, and only .1 per 1,000 above that of England and Wales. A favourable state of affairs as compared with former years.

Number of Women dying during or in consequence of Child Birth :

From Sepsis	0	From other causes ...	9
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DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

There were 144 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, equivalent to a rate of 80 per 1,000 births. Of these deaths, 133 were of legitimate infants, equivalent to a rate of 76 per 1,000 legitimate births, while 11 were of illegitimate infants, equivalent to a rate of 203 per 1,000 illegitimate births.

For the whole of England and Wales the infant mortality rate was 75 per 1,000 births, while for the 105 great towns it was 80 per 1,000 births. Thus, as was the case for the death-rate, our figure is the same as that for the great towns, and slightly above that of England and Wales.

On examining Table IV. it will be noted that 63 of the deaths were of infants under 1 month, and of these 34 were due to premature birth ; 6 to congenital malformations, and 6 to atrophy, debility and marasmus. It is in this group of deaths under 1 month that improvement is to be looked for as the result of antenatal supervision of the expectant mother.

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1924.

Name of District.—MERTHYR TYDFIL.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality.							Total Cases Removed to Hospital or Sanatorium	Total Deaths	
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 and Under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	Dowlais.	Pennydarren	Park.	(Yfaethfa	Town.	Plymouth.	Merthyr Vale			Treharris.
Small Pox	184	—	45	116	11	8	—	—	32	49	8	12	14	14	14	41	171	12
Diphtheria (including Membranous (roup)	124	1	53	63	5	1	—	3	3	5	9	3	14	62	16	12	109	1
Scarlet Fever	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	3	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	113	—	14	27	22	27	19	4	18	13	18	15	17	17	4	11	—	91
Puerperal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	2	5	3	—	1	2	1	3	2	5	4	—	1
Pneumonia	18	3	—	1	2	5	4	—	—	1	2	1	3	2	5	—	—	—
Erysipelas	15	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	1	1	—	6	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	42	—	3	3	8	14	12	2	2	10	11	5	4	2	3	5	16	47
Encephalitis Lethargica	41	—	3	5	13	15	8	—	11	6	4	3	4	4	4	5	11	37
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	26	—	5	8	8	5	—	—	1	3	2	3	2	2	8	5	8	12
" " " Females	24	—	6	7	9	1	1	—	6	1	4	1	4	2	2	4	11	9
Other Forms of "Tuberculosis—Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" " " Females	6	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polymyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	599	22	130	232	79	78	47	9	74	93	60	45	63	109	63	92	329	210

Bronchitis and pneumonia, between them, account for 38 deaths, practically the same figure as last year. Convulsions account for 16 deaths, as compared with 23 last year. There were no deaths from measles or whooping cough, and the lessened mortality rate, as compared with last year may be said to be due to the circumstance that there was no epidemic prevalence of these diseases. The death-rate per 1,000 births from diarrhœal diseases (under 2 years) was 10, as compared with 7.3 for England and Wales, and 9.2 for the 105 great towns.

The statement in the last Annual Report to the effect that there is still ample scope for the work of the Infant Welfare Centres and the Health Visitors may be repeated, as undoubtedly between the ages of 1 month and 12 months preventable deaths are still too numerous, notwithstanding the great improvement that has taken place in recent years.

DIPHTHERIA.

Notifications, 184; deaths, 12; death-rate per 1,000 living, .14; case-rate per 1,000 living, 2.2. For the whole of England and Wales the death-rate per 1,000 living was .06, and for the 105 great towns, .08. The case-rate per 1,000 living for England and Wales was 1.07. As seen from Table II. the greatest prevalence of the disease was in the Penydarren, Treharris and Dowlais Wards. The other Wards suffering in lower degree.

One hundred and seventy-one cases were removed to hospital, while satisfactory home isolation was provided for the remaining cases.

SCARLET FEVER.

Notifications, 124; deaths, 0; case-rate per 1,000 living, 1.4. For the whole of England and Wales the death rate was .02, and for the 105 great towns, .03. The case rate per 1,000 living for the whole of England and Wales was 2.16. One hundred and nine patients were removed to hospital, the remaining patients being nursed at home.

There has been considerable discussion of recent years as to the advisability of doing away with the hospital treatment of scarlet fever on the ground that it is unnecessary, and the beds at present in use for these cases could be better utilized for other diseases. In my opinion this would be a retrograde step as far as Merthyr is concerned, with housing conditions and overcrowding as at present in the Borough.

ENTERIC FEVER

Three notifications were received during the year and all three patients were removed to hospital. Two of the patients on admission were found to be suffering from enteritis with a negative Widal, and were discharged well in a few days. The third patient was a servant at a public-house, visited Langland Bay on Whit-Tuesday; she was taken ill about a fortnight afterwards with what proved to be a severe attack of enteric fever, which proved fatal. As there seemed to be no sower of infection at Merthyr, the probability is that she contracted the disease at Langland Bay.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Two notifications were received during the year from the Penydarren and Plymouth Wards respectively. Both patients were nursed at home and recovered. The case-rate per 1,000 living for the Borough is .02, as compared with .06 for England and Wales.

PNEUMONIA.

One hundred and thirteen notifications of influenza and acute primary pneumonia were received during the year. Ninety-one deaths from pneumonia (all forms) occurred during the year, and as mentioned in the last Annual Report, it would appear that there is still a laxity in notification. All the notified cases are visited by the Health Visitors, but no further action is taken as no accommodation is available at the Isolation Hospital. Eleven of the deaths occurred either at the General Hospital or the Union Infirmary, where accommodation is available.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

One case was notified during the year, that of a child under 1 year of age from the Treharris Ward. The case was nursed at home and recovered. Apart from somnolence there were no definite signs or symptoms of the disease, and the diagnosis remains somewhat doubtful.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

Six cases were notified during the year, with no deaths. Three of the cases were notified from the Plymouth Ward, and 1 each from the Cyfarthfa, Merthyr Vale and Treharris Wards. The patients attended the Infant Welfare Centres and were treated under the direction of Dr. Eppynt Phillips, who makes further reference to them in her report on Maternity and Infant Welfare.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Deaths from phthisis, 84 ; death-rate per 1,000 living, 1 ; deaths from other tubercular diseases, 21 ; death-rate per 1,000 living .25 ; death-rate from all forms of tuberculosis, 1.2. Last year the death-rate from phthisis was .96 ; from other tubercular diseases, .2 ; from all forms of tuberculosis, 1.1.

The following table exhibits the Ward distribution and death-rates (all forms) :—

No. Rate per 1,000				No. Rate per 1,000					
Dowlais	...	27	...	2.2	Town	...	16	...	1.3
Penydarren	...	14	...	.96	Plymouth	...	8	...	.76
Park	...	9	...	1.0	Merthyr Vale	...	8	...	.95
Cyfarthfa	...	16	...	1.9	Treharris	...	7	...	.76

It will be noted that the Dowlais and Cyfarthfa, with the two highest death-rates, have also the highest death-rates from tuberculosis. Of the 84 deaths from phthisis, 47 were of males and 37 of females ; and of the 21 deaths from other tubercular diseases, 12 were of males and 9 of females.

The following table shows the age distribution of the notifications and deaths :—

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	3	—	5	6	—	—	3	1
5	3	1	5	3	—	1	3	2
10	—	4	3	5	2	5	2	2
15	2	5	6	4	3	4	3	1
20	6	8	2	5	5	6	1	2
25	7	8	4	—	7	13	—	—
35	7	7	1	1	7	4	—	—
45	5	4	—	1	14	2	—	1
55	7	4	—	—	7	2	—	—
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	42	41	26	25	47	37	12	9

Table II. shows the number and Ward distribution of the notifications, and the figures include cases notified after death and discovered in the death returns. In the table at the end of the report an analysis of the notifications for the period from December 30th, 1923, to January 3rd, 1925, is given. In the supplemental return the number of cases ascertained from the death returns and which had not been notified is given. These cases numbered 14, and the Medical Practitioner in all cases, was written to for an explanation. The answer, usually given, was that he was under the impression that the case had been previously notified.

Patients from the Borough were admitted to the following Institutions for treatment during the year :—

Glan Ely	...	8	St. Brides' Hospital	...	2
Pontsarn Sanatorium	...	24	Mardy Hospital	...	33
Talgarth	...	13	North Wales Sanatorium	...	9
			Preston Hall	...	3

Two patients were admitted to the Union Infirmary.

OPHTHALMIA NEONTORUM.

Cases. Notified.	Cases Treated.		Vision	
	At Home.	In Hospital.	Unimpaired.	Impaired.
15	15	0	15	0

Fifteen cases were notified during the year. The cases, fortunately, were of a mild type and the patients made good recoveries with unimpaired vision in all cases. Three of the patients were treated at the School Clinics under my supervision, while the remainder were treated at home.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

I am not aware of any causes of sickness that have been specially noteworthy during the year. Influenza was somewhat prevalent in the first four months, and no doubt was the cause of a considerable amount of ill-health during that period. Twenty-four deaths in all occurred from this disease during the year. Bronchitis and pneumonia as causes of death exceeded the figures of last year, and were the cause of a large amount of sickness. Organic heart diseases were the cause of death of 97 persons, and these diseases as causes of sickness in an industrial district, such as ours, have been referred to in previous reports. Cancer was the cause of death of 64 persons, as compared with 79 last year. Tuberculosis as a cause of death has been referred to and is naturally the cause of a large amount of sickness.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME. (a). **GENERAL.** There are four Queen's Nurses in the Borough, two in the Town District and two in Dowlais. The lower wards of the Borough are not provided for in this respect. The Guardians provide two nurses for the outdoor nursing of Poor Law cases.

(b). **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.** The Health Visitors visit cases of measles, whooping cough, puerperal fever, epidemic diarrhœa, ophthalmia neonatorum and pneumonia. Apart from these there is no provision for nursing cases of infectious diseases at their own homes. The Welsh National Memorial Association provides one nurse for out-patients.

MIDWIVES. Dr. Eppynt Phillips, who acts as Inspector of Midwives, reports as follows :—

Fifty-six midwives notified their intention to practice, in addition to the seven Health Visitors and the Matron of the Isolation Hospital, who are registered midwives. Two midwives left the Borough ; 1 died, and 5 new midwives commenced practising. Forty-one are trained and 15 are bona-fide. Two are on the staff of the Union Infirmary and are not visited. None are employed by the Local Authority or subsidized. Two hundred visits of inspection were made.

One midwife was reported to the Central Midwives' Board, and the Board requested the Health Committee to reprimand her.

The newly qualified midwives are keen on ante-natal care and look after their patients well, advising medical help or a visit to the Ante-Natal Clinic when necessary.

The older midwives are taking more care than formerly.

Lectures on albuminuria and ophthalmia have been arranged, and the Health Committee have authorised collosol argentum to be supplied free to all midwives in the Borough as a prophylactic treatment for eyes.

Late booking is still the rule and often the midwife sees her patient when albuminuria, eclampsia or hæmorrhage have already occurred.

Records of sending for medical help :—

On behalf of mother	...	...	269
On behalf of child	...	...	57

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS AND INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

GENERAL. There are four Infant Welfare Centres, viz. : Merthyr, Dowlais, Troedyrhiw and Treharris.

There are no fresh developments to record this year, but more attention has been paid to the educational side.

In Merthyr the crowded premises make these talks rather difficult, as we have no room large enough for the mothers to sit down in together. The outlying districts are now connected up by means of Corporation omnibuses, and the need of a new centre at Mount Pleasant, mentioned in my last report, is thus met. The mothers from Mount Pleasant can, and do, attend the Troedyrhiw Centre.

Sessions are held weekly at each of the Centres, and are attended by two or three nurses and myself, and I should like to take this opportunity for thanking the St. John's Ambulance Brigade and Red Cross for their regular help. Some members attend every week at each centre, and their assistance is much appreciated by staff and mothers.

On Fridays a special Ante-Natal Clinic is held at Merthyr, to which mothers are referred from all four centres.

DRIED MILK (FULL CREAM). Both Cow and Gate and Glaxo have been sold or given in necessitous cases.

COWS' MILK is given to poor expectant and nursing mothers, and in some cases to infants and toddlers.

VIROL is sold at special prices, and Cod Liver Oil is given in cases of poverty.

The Orthopædic work is developing and several of our paralyzed children are now able to enter school at the same age as normal children.

ANTE-NATAL WORK. A considerable amount of advice is given in the routine work at the Centres, and many expectant mothers are interviewed there. They are then advised to see their own doctors or to attend the Ante-Natal Clinic in Merthyr, on Friday, for further examination. Or in special cases to attend the Dental or V.D. Clinic.

The ante-natal cases are still sent principally by Health Visitors ; some by midwives or their own doctors. One hundred and thirty-four women attended.

Several cases of albuminuria have been supervised during pregnancy, and the healthy babies are now attending the Centres.

DENTAL DEPARTMENT. Cases requiring dental treatment are transferred to Mr. Wylie, and the good results of the work done in this department are every year more apparent. The mothers themselves come and ask to see the dentist, so popular has this department become. In the early days it was difficult to persuade them to go until their baby was born, but Mr. Wylie's skill and tact has won them over.

VENEREAL DISEASES. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing thanks to Dr. Ward (the Medical Officer for Venereal Diseases) for his co-operation in very urgent cases, as well as the routine cases.

There is now no delay in placing an expectant mother under treatment, and the results have been excellent, both for mother and infant.

I find that the mothers realise the seriousness of the disease and prefer being told frankly, so that they can do all in their power to arrest the consequences for their unborn child.

Also, by putting the mother in touch with the V.D. Clinic, the husband and other children (if any) can be treated at the same Clinic which is much more likely to be a "cure" than if we attempted to treat mothers and infants at the Infant Welfare Centres without telling them what the disease was, and leaving the husband and family untreated and a source of re-infection.

POST NATAL WORK. Mothers attend for various discomforts after delivery, and the Clinic acts as a clearing house, drafting patients to own doctors or hospital, or giving simple treatment as required.

Many still come for diagnosis. In a town with a General Hospital these women would go to the Gynaecological Out-patient Department, but as our hospital has none they must either go all the way to Cardiff or attend here, if they cannot afford to pay a doctor.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES. The four centres are carried on as usual. There is a general improvement in mothercraft, especially as regards woollen clothing and feeding.

The attendances at the centres are increasing. 1635 more attendances were made this year than last.

The total number of babies born in Merthyr was 1,786. The total number attending the centres was 1,944, divided as follows:—Merthyr, 691; Dowlais, 606; Troedryhiw, 410, and Treharris, 237.

Of these babies, 1407 were under 1 year and 537 over. The total number of attendances was 9,356, making a weekly average attendance of 179.8.

ORTHOPÆDIC. POLIOMYELITIS— Six fresh cases were notified during 1924. They were scattered over the borough, and no connection could be traced with the outbreak of last year or with each other. The cases were distributed as follows : Cyfarthfa Ward, 1 ; Troedyrhiw, 3 ; Merthyr Vale, 1, and Abercynon, 1.

All these received early treatment by rest in hospital or at home frames or plaster, etc. All are making progress.

The cases of poliomyelitis which occurred last year have all been treated. Fourteen have been supplied with appliances at the Prince of Wales Hospital, and are being carefully watched at the Centres. They are sent down to the Prince of Wales Hospital for further treatment or adjustment of appliances as required. The extra work entailed by these cases takes up a great deal of my time and that of the Health Visitors, but the results are very encouraging, and the terrible deformities found among school children will thus be prevented, provided that the parents continue to attend the hospital when advised.

An arrangement with some Convalescent Home for children is badly needed for these and other chronic cases.

Again I have to acknowledge the help given by the United Services and Welsh Troops Funds in defraying the expense of treatment of ex-servicemen's children.

HEALTH VISITORS. There are 8 Health Visitors who give half their time to this work, as they also act as School Nurses.

Their work of health visiting has been increased this year by the number of cases of poliomyelitis, who after treatment at the Prince of Wales Hospital, are home on frames or in plaster or other appliances.

These baby cases are more difficult to deal with than older children and the mothers need much encouragement to continue the prolonged treatment. The success of the work is largely due to the tact displayed by the Health Visitors in the homes, and in the Centre.

MARY EPPYNT PHILLIPS.

DENTAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Mr. Wylie, Dental Surgeon to the Centre, reports as follows :—

DENTAL TREATMENT.

One hundred and twenty attendances were made by expectant and nursing mothers for extraction, fillings, etc. Forty-seven babies and infants also attended for dental treatment and other affections of the mouth with consequent improvement by the time they reach school age. Considerable more use has been made of the department during the year, as mothers are taking interest in the condition of their mouths, and are more alive to the evils of a septic mouth than formerly.

Opportunity is taken as occasion arises to talk to the mothers on the importance of oral hygiene as regards well being, and I am certain that these short lectures are appreciated and lead to good results. Special sessions are set apart for the treatment of mothers, but urgent cases are attended to immediately. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Dr. Binks for the kindness in administering anaesthetics when necessary, and also for his help with dental radiograms.

J. A. WYLIE, L.D.S.,
Dental Officer.

The value of the dried milk (Cow and Gate and Glaxo) sold at the centres for the year ended Mar. 31st, 1925, amounted to £1216 11s. 9d. In necessitous cases a free supply of milk powder is granted, the cost for the year was £267 7s. 6d. This supply is granted in accordance with the conditions laid down in Circular 185 of the Ministry of Health "Supply of Milk for expectant and nursing mothers." The cost of milk supplied under this scheme for the year ending March 31st, 1925, amounted to £470 1s. 5d., in addition to the above-mentioned sum of £267 7s. 6d., which represents the cost of milk powder supplied to infants attending the Centres. The total cost of milk supplied during the year ending March 31st, 1925 was £737 8s. 1d.

DAY NURSERIES. There are no day nurseries in the Borough.

SCHOOL CLINICS. There are two School Clinics in the Borough, at Glebeland Place, for the Merthyr district, and the Gellifaelog Old Schools for the Dowlais and Penydarren districts.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC. The Clinic, which is under the Council, is in the grounds of the Isolation Hospital, is open on

Tuesdays at 3 p.m. for females, and on Thursdays at 5 p.m. for males. The irrigation room is open daily (Sundays excepted) at 12 noon and 5 p.m.

On January 1st, 1924, 51 males and 32 females were under treatment, and during the year 47 males and 19 females, new patients, attended the Clinic. Last year the new patients included 57 males and 28 females, and it is difficult to account for the decline in the numbers this year. The total attendance made were : Males, 2,584 ; females, 1,056 ; the corresponding figures of last year were : Males, 2,561 ; females, 1,037. The patients included 5 from outside the Borough ; 2 from Breconshire ; 1 from Monmouthshire, and 2 from Glamorganshire ; while 61 were resident in the Borough.

Four patients were referred from the Infant Welfare Centres. One a child $4\frac{1}{2}$ years was found not to be suffering from venereal disease, and made one attendance. A mother and baby suffering from syphilis made one attendance only, as did a patient suffering from gonorrhœa.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(a). MARDY HOSPITAL. On January 1st, 1924, 30 patients remained in hospital, viz. : Scarlet fever, 4 ; diphtheria, 12 and tuberculosis, 14 ; and during the year 357 patients were admitted, viz. : Scarlet fever, 112 ; diphtheria, 169 ; enteric, 9 and tuberculosis, 67.

SCARLET FEVER. The cases admitted were of a mild type, and there were no deaths during the year. The average duration of stay is 6 weeks, prolonged in the case of patients with aural or nasal discharge till the discharge ceases. There were 2 return cases during the year.

DIPHTHERIA. The patients remained in hospital on an average 40 days. Nine deaths occurred, equivalent to a case mortality of 5.3 per 100 cases. Last year the figure was 10. We still have to complain of patients being admitted the 3rd, 4th or 5th day of the disease with consequent late administration of antitoxin and an unnecessarily high death-rate.

ENTERIC FEVER. Nine patients were admitted as suffering from enteric ; 6 were non-residents from Clydach, Mon. and were all suffering from the disease in a severe form. Only 1 of the Merthyr patients was suffering from enteric, and died a week after admission. The remaining two Merthyr patients were in hospital only a few days.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS. On January 1st, 1924, 14 patients were in hospital, and 67 new cases were admitted during the year. 34 patients were discharged during the year, and there were 26 deaths. 33 of the patients were from the Borough and the remainder from adjoining districts. Practically all the patients were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis in an advanced stage, and naturally the death rate is high under these circumstances.

EXPENDITURE. The Borough Controller has furnished the following table of expenditure and receipts for the year ending March 31st, 1924 :—

MARDY ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st March, 1924.

EXPENDITURE.

Salaries :—

	£	s.	d.
Superintendent	33	7	0
Matron and Staff	1579	8	6
Labour	321	5	1
Painting	—		
Teamwork	28	7	11
Materials	170	7	7
Ground Rent, Rates, Taxes and Insurance	477	7	1
Hardware, Crockery and Furnishing ...	61	15	3
Medicine and Drugs	319	16	9
Fuel, Light and Cleaning	825	7	7
Provisions	1797	3	3
Haircutting, etc.	17	0	0
Uniforms and Drapery	187	16	3
Cleaning Requisites	—		
Garden	290	5	9
Purchase and Maintenance of Poultry ...	45	1	7
Purchase and Maintenance of Pigs ...	8	1	9
Repairs to Bedding	—		
Repairs to Machinery	16	1	6
New Boiler and Repairs... ..	—		
Disinfectants	11	0	0
Telephone Fees and Subscriptions ...	—		
Printing, Stationery and Advertising ...	11	8	4
Petty Disbursements, Telephone Fees and Sundries	4	7	1
National Insurance	—		
	£6245	8	3

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.
Merthyr Guardians' Contribution	225	0	0
Maintenance of Tuberculosis Patients	2117	8	9
Maintenance of Patients—Clydach	59	8	0
Sale of Pigs, etc.	26	15	0
Sundries	5	16	0
Unemployed Grants	—		
	<hr/>		
	£2434	7	9
	<hr/>		

(b). SMALL POX HOSPITAL, MOUNTAIN HARE. This hospital was not in use during the year. It is a sixteen bed hospital, constructed of corrugated iron lined with wood and built on brick foundations.

Other hospitals in the Borough are : (1) The General Hospital, now with 100 beds and includes a children's ward.

(2). The Union Infirmary, containing 300 beds and includes hospital accommodation for all the parishes in the Union.

(3). Pontsarn Hospital of the Welsh National Memorial Association, containing 38 beds for tubercular patients.

There is no institutional provision in the Borough for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The Council possesses a motor ambulance for the transport of infectious cases and also a police motor ambulance for accidents, etc. The Guardians possess a motor ambulance as do several of the Colliery Companies.

LABORATORY WORK.

Mr. Rhys Charles, Public Analyst of the Borough, acts also as Bacteriologist in respect to the bacteriological diagnosis of diphtheria and typhoid fever. During the year he reported on 201 diphtheria swabs and 12 blood specimens.

Examinations for the tubercle bacillus are conducted by the Welsh National Memorial Association at their Cardiff Laboratory. The sputa of tubercular patients in Mardy Hospital are sent to this Laboratory for examination, and the local medical men also use it for their private work.

The biological examinations of milk samples for tubercle bacillus are carried out at Messrs. Evans, Lescher and Webbs' laboratory at Runcorn. Forty-nine samples were examined, and one was

reported as having infected a guinea pig on inoculation. The farm from which the sample was obtained was visited by the Veterinary Surgeon, who found one cow suffering from a tubercular udder. This animal was eliminated from the herd and a sample of milk taken subsequently was declared free from tubercle bacilli.

Dr. Scholberg, of Cardiff, is Pathologist under the Venereal Diseases Scheme, and during the year carried out the following examinations :—

For detection of Gonococci :—

For treatment Centre	...	...	42
For Practitioners	...	...	21

For Wasserman Re-action :—

For Treatment Centre	...	...	70
For Practitioners	...	...	59

The heading " For Practitioners" in the above tables 13 examinations for gonococci and 58 for Wasserman re-action were from the Union Infirmary.

WATER ANALYSES (chemical and bacteriological) are carried out by Mr. Rhys Charles, Public Analyst for the Borough. Only 1 sample for chemical analysis was reported on during the year, and the report was satisfactory.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN is issued to Medical Practitioners in the Borough, and supplies are kept at the various Police Stations.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The following table shows a summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year :—

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	Total
1. Dilapidated, Defective and Choked Drains ...	103	42	157	194	496
2. Insufficient W.C. Accommodation ...	26	8	27	8	69
3. To open and repair slop drains	48	36	62	71	217
4. To provide slop drains	18	10	2	7	37
5. To drain urinals	—	1	—	—	1
6. To provide cisterns in w.c.'s	41	28	91	30	190
7. To pave backyards	49	14	93	35	191
8. To repair stable drains	—	5	—	—	5
9. To provide manure receptacles	5	2	1	2	10
0. To remove foul accumulations	23	34	7	10	74

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	Total
11. To repair dilapidated dwellings	110	116	60	57	343
12. To cleanse dwelling houses ...	9	39	5	24	77
13. To provide rain-water troughing	91	66	152	105	414
14. To prevent escape of sewer gas into houses ...	4	10	5	6	25
15. To ventilate drains ...	5	4	11	5	25
16. To remove fowls, animals, etc.	7	23	49	40	119
17. To prevent overerowidg ...	—	18	1	2	21
18. Under Slaughterhouse Bye-Laws ...	5	9	1	9	24
19. Under Factory and Workshops Act ...	22	6	5	8	41
20. Under Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations ...	5	12	2	4	23
21. To provide a separate water supply ...	13	3	12	8	36
22. To prevent pollution of brook	1	10	—	1	12
23. Common Lodging Houses' ...	5	3	—	—	8
24. Houses let in lodgings ...	2	12	1	—	15
25. To repair defective roofs causing dampness ...	115	138	150	114	517
26. To remove long hopper pans	11	16	25	12	64
27. To provide sinks in houses ...	2	4	5	4	15
28. To connect drainage cesspit to sewer ...	—	—	—	—	—
29. To cleanse cesspit ...	—	—	—	9	9
30. To close stable as insanitary...	—	2	1	—	3
31. To divide common backyard...	—	6	9	3	18
32. To provide proper coalplaces...	8	8	27	15	58
33. Other nuisances ...	9	12	58	21	100

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

	No. District	No. 2 District	No. 3 District	No. 4 District	Total
House to house ...	223	634	424	409	1690
Infectious diseases investigated ...	84	95	75	207	461
Infectious diseases re-visited ...	51	70	52	121	294
Slaughterhouses ...	1222	590	496	684	2992
Cowsheds and Dairies ...	137	115	105	93	450
Vans and Tents ...	27	22	12	6	67
Common Lodging Houses ...	210	29	—	—	230
Houses let in lodgings ...	95	173	36	—	304
Workshops ...	117	146	106	75	444
Bakehouses ...	81	82	84	99	346
Complaints received ...	143	69	81	100	393

RESULTS OF ABOVE INSPECTIONS.

	No. 1 District	No. 2 District	No. 3 District	No. 4 District	Total
Nuisances detected ...	747	681	1111	851	3390
Notices issued ...	378	290	594	463	1725
Premises disinfected ...	79	107	72	205	463
Clothing disinfected ...	79	105	72	205	461
Length of drains tested ...	2540 feet	2737 feet	2473 feet	2885 feet	10635 feet

INSPECTION OF PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED. The Sanitary Inspectors report as follows :—

NO. 1 DISTRICT (CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR THOMAS). This district comprises the Town and Cyfarthfa Wards, with the exception of the portion of the latter adjoining Brecon Road.

There are 6 restaurant establishments where teas and light refreshments are provided. All these premises are regularly visited and the food stuffs examined, and also the utensils, and the general sanitary conditions as to cleanliness. Conditions generally are satisfactory, and there has been no serious cause of complaint.

In addition to the above, 15 premises where ices and various soft drinks are sold are kept under observation.

FISH SHOPS. There are 23 Fried Fish Shops in this district, all properly fitted up with modern cooking stoves for fishfrying. The condition of these premises, generally, is satisfactory as to cleanliness and the food stuffs are of good quality.

Places where small goods are made—sausages, polonies, brawn, etc. There are 12 of these premises in the district, all satisfactory in regard to sanitary condition. On rare occasions only has it been necessary to warn the occupiers in respect to the necessity of lime washing and cleansing.

BAKEHOUSES. There are 17 bakehouses on the register. They are all regularly visited, and generally found clean and satisfactory. All the ovens are of the modern type, “steam ovens.”

Repairs including the provision of additional ventilation were carried out at 4 premises.

NO. 2 DISTRICT (SANITARY INSPECTOR JENKINS). This comprises the Dowlais District :—

RESTAURANT KITCHENS, &c. Two licensed premises and 3 businesses exclusively devoted to catering for meals and general refreshments were found in a most satisfactory condition.

FISH FRYING AND CHIP POTATO SHOPS. The number of premises upon the register is now 7, a reduction of 1 during the year. Unfortunately, the present reduction is one of the best fitted and most cleanly run businesses, with quite up to date methods, which possibly do not appeal to the general purchasing public as they should.

The introduction of electric motor driven potato cleaners and the adoption of proper receptacles have produced quite a change for the better in these establishments.

Materials used invariably found in good condition, and premises clean and satisfactory.

ICE CREAM VENDORS. Six premises remain upon the register. The ice cream is made at 3 premises only and supplied to the branches. In each instance the general condition of the premises is quite satisfactory, being arranged for quick and efficient cleansing, and more suitable accommodation provided for the storage of materials, and the keeping of the vessels when cleansed and not in use. Upon each visit cleanliness was found quite satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES. Nineteen on register. All ovens in use are now of the modern steam type. One an underground bakehouse, has been refitted with new ovens and is now used to its full capacity, in addition to the steam ovens on the ground floor.

Three notices were served owing to the periodical lime washing not being carried out at the proper time ; otherwise the conditions were invariably found satisfactory.

BUTCHERS. Small goods are prepared at 9 butcher's establishments. With the one exception of premises at the rear of High Street, Dowlais, established during the early part of the year, in which case repeated warnings were necessary as to the maintenance of cleanliness ; and the business now discontinued. The general cleanliness and quality of materials used was invariably found satisfactory.

Some complaints were needed in a few instance as to the cleansing of meat mincing machines directly they were put out of use, instead of delaying the cleansing, perhaps for a day or more.

No. 3 DISTRICT (SANITARY INSPECTOR MILLS). This district comprises the Park Ward, the portion of the Cyfarthfa District adjoining the Brecon Road, and the portion of the Penydarren Ward below the New Road.

RESTAURANTS, KITCHENS, &c. There are 3 premises where travellers are catered for. The sanitary arrangements, food supply and general cleanliness are maintained in a satisfactory manner.

FISH AND CHIP POTATO FRYING. There are 9 premises in the district. Modern, up to date motor cleaners are provided in each case, and the trade carried out in a cleanly manner. The fish and oil is supplied by the Fish Fryers' Association, are of good quality, and when being sold the goods are wrapped in grease proof paper.

ICE CREAM VENDORS. Six premises in the district, and were found satisfactory. Conditions of storage of materials and manufacture of the cream, also the cleansing of receptacles are maintained in a satisfactory manner.

BAKEHOUSES. Thirteen on register ; 2 of which are underground. Ovens of the modern type are in use in all cases. Two notices were served for lime washing, and 1 for defective sanitary accommodation. These nuisances were abated, and all bakehouses are now in a satisfactory condition.

There is a reduction in number of bakehouses due to bad trade.

BUTCHERS. There are 11 shops in the district, and at 6 of these premises small goods are made : Pies, brawn, pressed beef, etc. In each case the general cleanliness and quality of material used were found satisfactory. No complaints as to goods supply have been received during the year.

NO. 4 (SANITARY INSPECTOR WILLIAMS). This district comprises the Plymouth, Merthyr Vale and Treharris Wards.

RESTAURANTS, KITCHENS, &c. There are 6 licensed premises and 2 restaurants in this district which provide for travellers. All dining rooms and lavatories were periodically inspected and always found clean. Enquiries were made as to where the food served was bought, and the provision shops frequently examined.

FISH-FRYING ESTABLISHMENTS. There are now 14 premises in this district, an increase of 6 since my last report. Constant attention is given to the cooking stoves and other appliances used in connection with this trade respecting cleanliness without reason to complain. The outbuildings are suitably constructed for fish cleansing and potato washing. The floors being made either of concrete or flagstones with channels discharging into gully traps outside.

ICE CREAM VENDORS. There are 8 premises in the district, 2 having given up business since my last report. The rooms where cream is manufactured and the vessels used for the storage of materials were frequently inspected and always found to be very clean.

BAKEHOUSES. There are 21 in the district, an increase of 1 since my last report. Notices were served to remedy structural defects and lime-washing. The ovens are all steam heated with the exception of 1 old type brick oven.

BUTCHERS. There are 31 in the district, an increase of 1 since my last report. Fourteen prepare small goods such as brawn, sausage and other pies. The meat used in preparation was found on each occasion these premises were visited to be wholesome. I had cause to complain on several occasions concerning dirty machines.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 26 slaughterhouses in the Borough, 16 registered and 10 licensed. Twenty-four notices were served under the Bye-laws to abate nuisances or lime-wash the premises. The necessity of a public abattoir has been emphasised in previous reports, and the necessity remains as great as ever, especially in view of the Meat Regulations of 1924, under which all animals slaughtered should be examined within three hours of the time of slaughter.

Two thousand nine hundred and ninety-two visits for the purpose of meat inspection were made by the four Sanitary Inspectors, who all possess the certificate of the Sanitary Institute for the Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

MEAT CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR :—

	lbs.		lbs.
Beef ...	9510	Mutton ...	1668
Pork ...	266	Veal ...	74
Sausages ...	109	Livers ...	2447

The following food stuffs were condemned during the year :—

Tinned Goods(tins)	1262	Rabbits	4
Fruit (lbs.) ...	1525	Vegetables (lbs.)	3642

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

At the Isolation Hospital there is an Equifex Disinfector in which all bedding and clothes from houses where there have been cases of infectious diseases are disinfected. The diseases referred to are mainly : Scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever, tuberculosis, cerebro spinal fever, small pox, and occasionally other infectious diseases, such as scabies. Disinfection is not carried out in cases of pneumonia and poliomyelitis, though the relatives are advised to boil all articles of clothing and bedding that have been used by or have been in contact with the patient. Except in cases of tuberculosis the usual method of room disinfection is by means of sulphur fumigation. In cases of tuberculosis the wall paper is removed and the room disinfected by formalin spraying. Such disinfection is carried out when a patient is removed to a hospital or Sanatorium, or after death.

On reference to the Inspectors' tables it will be noted that 463 premises were disinfected.

There is no public cleaning station in the Borough where disinfection may be carried out.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the end of the year there were 170 names on the registers, viz. : Retail purveyors of milk, 110 ; cowkeepers, 60. The 60 cowkeepers are also purveyors of milk. Of the retail purveyors of milk, 95 reside in the Borough, and 15 are non resident. The cowkeepers are all resident in the Borough.

During the year the Inspectors paid 450 visits of inspection to cowsheds and dairies, and 33 notices under the regulations in respect to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops were served.

No applications were received during the year to sell milk under special designations (certified, Grade A, Pasteurised) and no milk under these special designations has so far been sold in the Borough.

There was one prosecution during the year for having a dirty milk cart, and a fine of £5, or 31 days was imposed.

Unfortunately, as regards the purity of the milk, it cannot be said that the large amount of effort expended is commensurate with the result as 19 samples of milk out of 169 examined were reported as dirty and 25 as slightly dirty, a far from satisfactory result.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

During the year 169 samples of new milk were taken. In 6 cases the samples were below the standard of the Ministry of Agriculture, as follows:—

- 2 cases 2 per cent. deficiency of fat.
- 2 cases 2 per cent. added water.
- 1 case 10 per cent. deficiency in fat.
- 1 case 10 per cent. added water.

There were 2 prosecutions with the following results:—

Defendant.	Offence.	Result.
M.P. ...	10 per cent. deficiency in fat.	40s. fine and 20s. costs.
J.W. ...	10 per cent. added water...	40s. fine and 20s. costs.

As mentioned above the Analyst reported 19 samples dirty and 25 slightly dirty. In view of the case *Kenny v. Cox*, where the information was dismissed and the court upheld the decision where a prosecution was instituted in a case of dirty milk, it was deemed wise not to prosecute.

In addition to milk, samples of the following food stuffs were taken for analysis :—

	Samples.		Genuine.		Adulterated.
Butter	...	30	...	30	—
Vinegar	...	6	...	6	—
Cream	...	6	...	6	—
Coffee	...	12	...	12	—
Pepper	...	6	...	6	—

Informal samples of the following food stuffs were taken in respect to the presence of boracic acid as a preservative :—

	Samples.		Boracic Acid.
Fancy Sponge Cakes	2	one	9 grs. per lb.
		"	8.7 grs. per lb
Sponge Cakes	1	...	Nil.
Sponge Roll	1	...	9.5 grs. per lb.
Rice Cake	1	...	8.9 grs. per lb.
Coronation Cake	1	...	8.7 grs. per lb.
Lemon Cake	1	...	7.5 grs. per lb.
Cherry Cake	1	...	9.5 grs. per lb.
Cocoa Cake	1	...	8.9 grs. per lb.
Jam Rolls	3	one	9.8 grs. per lb.
		"	8.7 grs. per lb.
		"	9 grs. per lb.

It will be noted that no boracic acid was found in the samples of sponge cake in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health as laid down in Circular 381.

FERTILIZERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT.

During the year 5 samples were taken and found up to standard given in the regulations. The samples included multiple plant food, Rito, Bibby's Dairy Meal, Barley Meal and Poultry Food.

MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS.

The following is a copy of the report sent to the Ministry of Health under the above regulations :—

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS, 1912 and 1917.

Report for the year ended 31st December, 1924 :—

1. Milk and Cream not sold as preserved cream :—

	(a) No. of Samples examined for the presence of a preservative.		(b) No. in which a preservative was reported to be present, and percentage of preservative found in each sample.	
Milk	...	169	...	Nil
Cream	...	3	...	Nil

2. Cream sold as preserved cream :—

(a). Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives were correct :—

(i) Correct statement made	...	3
(ii) Statements incorrect	...	Nil

Total	...	3
-------	-----	---

(iii) Percentage of preservatives found in each sample	...	Two	...	.38
		One	...	.39

Percentage stated on Statutory

Label	...	...	Not exceeding
			0.4

(b). Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream :—

(i) Above 35 per cent.	...	3
(ii) Below 35 per cent.	...	Nil

Total	...	3
-------	-----	---

(c). Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) and the provision in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed... Nil

(d). Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken ... Nil

3. THICKENING SUBSTANCES. Any evidence of addition to cream or to preserved cream
Action taken where found ... Nil

PROSECUTIONS, 1924.

The following is a Summary of Police Court proceedings during the year. Offences under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order already referred to are not included :

Defendant.	Offence.	Result.
G.C. ...	Assault on Inspector Mills	20s. and costs ; bound over for 12 months to keep the peace.

S.J.W.	...	Depositing Ashes	...	10s. fine.
M.M.	...	"	...	"
J.C.	...	"	...	"
C.H.	...	"	...	"
A.T.	...	Depositing slop water	...	10s. fine.
E.E.	...	"	...	"
E.P.	...	"	...	"
F.M.	...	"	...	"
H.P.	...	Depositing Ashes in river	Bound over for 6 months and to pay costs.	
J.W. & L.W.	Offence being in possession of a carcase unfit for human consumption.			Fined £15 or 2 months, and L.W. fined £5 or 1 month.
L.P.	...	Ejectment from dangerous premises	...	Order 28 days;
R.P.	...	Depositing filth	...	5s. fine.
T.R.	...	"	...	"
V.J.	...	"	...	"
G.B.	...	Non-abatement of nuisance	Adjourned for 2 mths. to enable defendant to abate nuisance. Defendant to pay costs of summons.	

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

There has been no change in the method of collecting or the means of disposal of domestic refuse during the year. There is a tri-weekly collection by the Council's workmen under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor, and there have been but few complaints during the year. The matter of the provision of sanitary dust bins has not come under consideration during the year, and householders still put out their refuse in all sorts of receptacles. The various tips are still in use and no progress is to be reported as to the provision of modern salvage methods for the treatment of refuse.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The construction of the 30-inch relief sewer extending from Troedyrhiw to Craigberthlwyd is now practically complete, though sewage has not actually been turned in to it.

The sewer to drain Gas Row, Dowlais, has now been completed, and some 20 houses connected with it. These houses formerly drained into the Morlais Brook and were a serious source of pollution. Apart from extension of the sewers for the accommodation of new houses no other work of importance is to be chronicled.

Some 30 houses in the Clwydyfagwr and Winchfawr district that cannot be connected with the sewer had earth closets provided. Before that their arrangements were of a primitive nature.

SEWAGE FARM. TROEDYRHIW.

During the year the lower part of the farm was twice thrown out of action owing to the breaking in of the Taff River, and until the damage was made good a considerable volume of sewage had to be discharged into the river directly. Reference was made in last year's report as to the advisability of enlarging the straining tanks, inasmuch as they were ^{not being} washing beyond their capacity, but nothing has been done to remedy matters during the year, with the result that in ^{hot} bad weather there is an offensive odour from the effluent.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No application for the establishment of an offensive trade has been received during the year. There are 4 premises where offensive trades are carried on in the Borough, viz.: Two gut scrapers, a fell-monger and a knacker. There were no complaints during the year.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Chief Sanitary Inspector Thomas reports that he dealt with 26 premises during the year, with satisfactory results. Inspector Jenkins reports that the old culverts in the Dowlais Ward were thoroughly baited during May and November, with good results. He states that indications of the existence of rats are now rarely seen in or about dwelling houses, but the refuse tips with their adjacent pig cots, both at Dowlais Top and Pantscallog, still occasionally report their presence. Inspector Mills reports that baits were laid in 4 premises with good results. Inspector Williams reports that baits were laid on 4 premises with satisfactory results.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 444 workshops (including bakehouses) on the register, and (excluding bakehouses) 444 visits were made by the Inspectors during the year. Forty-three notices were made during the year. Details are given in Table V.

BAKEHOUSES. There are 70 bakehouses on the register, and 346 visits of inspection were made during the year. The statutory requirements in respect to lime-washing were carried out in all cases during the year. There are 3 certified underground bakehouses in the Borough.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL. A. Duncan, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Superintendent Isolation Hospital, Medical Officer under the Mental Deficiency Act.

M. Epynt Phillips, M.B. (London), Assistant Medical Officer of Health (half-time), Assistant School Medical Officer (half-time), Half time is devoted to the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and half to School Medical Work under the Education Committee, Inspector of Midwives.

H. Binks, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer. Dr. Binks is chiefly engaged in School Medical work under the Education Committee.

H. Scholberg, M.B., D.P.H. (part-time), Pathologist under the Venereal Diseases Scheme.

DENTAL. J. Wylie, L.D.S. (part-time), Dental Officer of the Maternity and Child Welfare Department, School Dental Officer.

ANALYTICAL. Rhys Charles, F.I.C., F.C.S. (part-time), Public Analyst, also acts as part-time Bacteriologist.

SANITARY. M. Thomas, M.R.S.I., Certificate of Sanitary Institute for inspection of meat and other foods, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Housing Acts, Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts.

H. Jenkins, M.R.S.I., Certificate of Sanitary Institute for Inspection of meat and other foods, Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Housing Acts, Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts.

L. Mills, A.R.S.I., Certificate of Sanitary Institute for Inspection of meat and other foods, Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under Housing Acts, Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts.

B. Williams, A.R.S.I., Certificate of Sanitary Institute for Inspection of meat and other foods, Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under housing Acts. Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts.

VETERINARY. A. Jones, M.R.C.V.S. (part-time), Inspector under the Tuberculosis Clauses, Merthyr Corporation Act, 1908.

Health Visitors and School Nurses :

A. Davies, trained nurse, C.M.B., C.R.S.I.

E. M. Lewis, trained nurse, C.M.B.

E. Parry, trained nurse, C.M.B., C.R.S.I.

M. Rogers, trained nurse, C.M.B., C.R.S.I.

E. Lewis, trained nurse, C.M.B., C.R.S.I.

H. Hewitt, trained nurse, L.O.S., C.R.S.I.

E. Williams, Fever and Tuberculosis Training, C.R.S.I.

A. Jones, trained nurse, C.M.B.

DENTAL NURSE. M. Evans (part-time), School Dental Nurse.

Staff of Isolation Hospital :

MATRON. C. Jones. Five Sisters, 1 Assistant Nurse and 12 Probationers, domestic and outdoor staff.

CLERICAL STAFF. One second grade clerk, 1 third grade clerk, and 1 part-time third grade clerk.

There is also an ambulance driver and 2 disinfectors, 1 for outdoor work and 1 at the Isolation Hospital.

Salary contributions are made in respect to the Medical Officer of Health, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Pathologist under the Venereal Diseases Scheme, Dental Surgeon, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Health Visitors and Dental Nurse.

HOUSING.

The following table indicates the results of the inspection of 1,690 houses :—

Number of Houses Inspected	...	1769
Defective Drains	... ..	179
Choked Drains	... ..	137
Unventilated Drains	... ..	48
Pans in Filthy Condition	... ..	126
Absence of or Defective Cisterns	... ..	339
Absence of or Defective Sinks	... ..	349
Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	... ..	44
Houses in a Filthy Condition	... ..	69
Houses in Bad Repair, Damp, etc.	... ..	733
Broken Pavement in Yard	... ..	183
Animals or Fowls in Yard	... ..	113
Refuse in Yard	... ..	104
Other Nuisances	... ..	201

By the end of the year a large number of the abovementioned defects were remedied.

During the year 82 houses have come into occupation, and there is still a considerable amount of overcrowding. When the present building schemes are completed, 48 more houses will come into occupation at Pant, (25); Gellifaelog, (12), and Aberfan, (11). It has been decided to erect 118 houses at Treharris, and 12 at Gellifaelog, the latter to re-house the tenants at present occupying Gellifaelog Old Schools. They will be one-storied structures, consisting of a living room and 3 bedrooms, and will be let at rental of about 8s. 6d. per week. As indication of the overcrowding 15 premises in the Dowlais district were closed under the Housing Acts have been broken into and occupied by young married people, in

addition to seven houses previously broken into. These properties are dilapidated and insanitary, and usually without a water supply. Last year it was reported that in the district between Dowlais and Mountain Hare 6 tents were in use as dwelling places, and there has been an addition of one to their number during the year, making seven in all. They are chiefly composed of old sacking or blankets, and are far from constituting ideal residences.

During the year 6 small areas in the Georgetown district were represented under Part 2 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890. They are Gellideg, Clwydyfagwr, Rhydycar, Ynsfach, Lower Colliers' Row and Upper Colliers' Row, and comprises 132 houses and 141 families. A scheme is in preparation, and it is intended to rehouse the tenants in the district above Ynsfach to the extent of 120 houses, and in a field adjoining the Gellideg area to the extent of 21 houses. The scheme for rehousing the tenants of the Dowlais areas referred to in the last annual report, comprises the erection of 90 houses in the Gellifaelog area, and is ready for submission to the Ministry.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a). Total	...	...	...	...	...	82
(b). As part of a Municipal Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	80
Inspection :						

(1). Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	2246
(2). Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	1668
(3). Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	98
(4). Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	914

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	894
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :—

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town
Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	...	I
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :		
(a). By Owners	... ..	I
(b). By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	481
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a). By Owners	... .. 438
(b). By Local Authority in default of Owners	...

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing
Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 :—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	... .. 5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... .. 5
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit —
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... .. I
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1924 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Name of District.—MERTHYR TYDFIL.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of Year.	BIRTHS.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths Belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett.						Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.	Of Non-resi- dents registered in the District	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1919	71638	1846	1835	24.5	1109	15.4	90	43	167	91	1062	14.8
1920	74493	2232	2216	29.7	1110	14.6	92	36	188	84	1054	13.8
1921	81800	2271	2253	27.5	1069	13	71	43	205	90	1041	12.7
1922	82680	1789	1765	21.3	1227	14.8	91	37	181	102	1173	14.1
1923	82760	1792	1781	21.5	1039	12.5	66	32	154	86	1005	12.1
1924	83440	1804	1786	21.4	1080	12.9	103	51	144	80	1028	12.3

Area of District in acres (land and inland waters), 17,761.

Total Population at all ages, 80,116 ... At Census, 1921.

CAUSE OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR.

Name of District.—MERTHYR TYDFIL.

[illegible]

TABLE IIIA.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR

Name of District.—MERTHYR TYDFIL.

Nett Deaths at the Subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Dowlais	Pen'darren	Park	Cyfarthfa	Town	Plymouth	Mertthyr Vale	Treharris
All Causes—Certified	199	198	96	118	129	111	85	92
1. Enteric Fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
2. Small Pox... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Measles	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
4. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Diphtheria and Croup	2	6	—	—	1	1	1	1
7. Influenza	2	4	—	3	2	6	5	2
8. Erysipelas... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
9. Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	20	13	8	12	13	6	7	5
10. Tubercular Meningitis	5	1	1	3	2	1	—	1
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	—	—	1	1	1	1	1
12. Cancer (Malignant Disease)	15	11	10	3	10	8	2	5
13. Rheumatic Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
14. Meningitis (See Note)	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Organic Heart Disease	23	20	11	7	11	12	8	5
16. Bronchitis... ..	23	23	7	15	16	13	10	13
17. Pneumonia (All Forms)	20	23	7	13	12	5	6	5
18. Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs... ..	4	—	3	—	—	—	3	—
19. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (See Note)	1	10	—	3	—	1	2	2
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis... ..	2	1	—	1	1	2	1	1
21. Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
21a. Alcoholism	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
22. Nephritis and Brights Disease	3	2	3	3	6	4	1	3
23. Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24. Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	1	—	1	2	1	—	3
25. Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth	9	10	5	11	4	5	4	13
26. Violent Deaths (excluding Suicide)	6	9	6	6	8	7	3	5
27. Suicide	1	2	1	1	—	2	1	—
28. Other Defined Diseases	53	52	33	34	37	34	29	27
29. Diseases (Ill-Defined or Unknown)	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Sub-Entries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic Cerebro Spinal Meningitis... Inc. and Ded.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
in above figures.								

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 week	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 mths.	3 months and under 6 mths.	6 mths. and under 9 mths.	9 mths. and under 12 mths.	Total Deaths under one Year.
All Causes	Certified	...	...	48	8	5	2	63	26	20	18	17	144
	Uncertified	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small Pox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis (C)	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (Not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	5	—	1	—	6	5	3	1	1	16
Laryngitis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	5	3	17
Pneumonia (All Forms)	...	...	...	—	—	1	1	2	3	2	5	9	21
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Enteritis	...	...	...	—	1	—	1	2	1	3	2	1	9
Gastritis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Rickets	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Suffocation (Overlying)	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations (C)	...	...	...	6	—	—	—	6	2	3	—	—	11
Premature Birth	...	...	...	29	3	2	—	34	3	—	—	—	37
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	5	1	—	—	6	2	3	4	—	15
Other Causes	...	...	...	2	3	—	—	5	1	2	—	2	10

Net t Births in the Year ... { Legitimate—1732
 { Illegitimate—54

Nett Deaths in the Year { Legitimate Infants—133
 { Illegitimate Infants—11

TABLE IVa.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at Various Ages under 1 year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Dowlais	Pen'darren	Park	Cyfarthfa	Town	Plymouth	Merthyr Vale	Treharris
All Causes	Certified ... ..	...	...	19	39	10	20	14	11	14	17
	Uncertified ... ..	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small Pox				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tubercular Meningitis				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis (C)				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (Not Tuberculous)				1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions				3	2	1	1	4	1	3	1
Laryngitis				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis				1	5	—	2	3	2	3	1
Pneumonia (All Forms)				2	8	1	5	2	2	—	1
Diarrhœa				—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Enteritis				1	4	—	1	—	—	2	1
Gastritis				—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis				—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Suffocation (Overlying)				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis				—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations (C)				3	4	—	—	—	2	—	2
Premature Birth				4	12	4	6	3	3	1	4
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus				1	3	—	4	1	—	2	4
Other Causes				3	—	2	—	1	—	3	1

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1924
for the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil,

On the Administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections 2	Written Notices. 3	Prosecutions. 4
FACTORIES ... (Including Factory Laundries)	—	—	—
WORKSHOPS ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	608	36	—
WORKPLACES ... (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this report)	—	—	—
TOTAL	608	36	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspectors	Number of Prosecutions
1	2	3	4	5
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*				
Want of Cleanliness ...	18	18	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding ...	1	1	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	1	1	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	5	5	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation { Insufficient	3	3	—	—
{ Unsuitable or Defective	12	12	1	—
{ Not Separate for Sexes	2	2	1	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouses (s. 101)				
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	—	—	—	—
Other Offences :—				
(Excluding Offences relating to Outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	43	43	2	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901 as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.		
	Lists received from Employers ending twice in the year.		
	Lists.	Outworkers. Contractors	Workmen.
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc)	58	17	20
TOTAL	58	17	20

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year. (1)	Number (2)
Important Classes of Workshops, such as Workshop, Bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	374 70
Total Number of Workshops on Register...	444

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector } as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but } not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s.5, 1901) }	15
Notified by H.M. Inspector ...	15
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...	15
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
In use at the end of the year ...	3

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1912.

Summary of Notifications during the period from the 31st December, 1923, to the 3rd January, 1925
in the COUNTY BOROUGH OF MERTHYR TYDFIL.

Age Periods	Notifications on Form A.													Notifications on Form B.					No. of Notifications on Form C	
	Number of Primary Notifications.												Total Notific'ns on Form A.	No. of Primary Notifications				Total Notific'ns on Form B.	Poor Law Insti- tutions	Sanatoria
	0—1	1—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65 and up- wards	Total Primary Notific'ns		Under 5	5—10	10—15	Total Primary Notific'ns			
Pulmonary Males	—	2	3	—	2	6	7	7	5	5	1	38	43	—	—	—	—	—	—	44
Pulmonary Females	—	—	1	4	4	7	8	4	2	4	—	34	42	—	—	—	—	—	2	29
Non-Pulmonary Males	—	4	5	2	6	2	4	1	—	—	—	24	25	—	1	—	1	2	—	11
Non-Pulmonary Females	—	6	3	5	4	5	—	1	—	—	—	24	24	—	1	—	1	1	—	8

SUPPLEMENTAL RETURN.

NEW Cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health or Chief (Administrative) Tuberculosis Officer during the period from the 30th December, 1923, to the 3rd January, 1925, otherwise than by notification on Form A or Form B under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912.

Age Periods		0—1	1—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65 and upwards.	Total Cases.
Pulmonary Males	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4
Pulmonary Females	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	2	—	—	7
Non-pulmonary Males	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Non-pulmonary Females	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

